

yet the examination, if made at all, is often perfunctory.

The history of this subject is reviewed, with many original illustrations, and the authors have drawn on non-medical sources, with effect. The pioneer work of Schatz, and other German authors, previously unavailable in translation, is presented in some detail. Though this is one of the purposes of the book, it does unbalance the book a little.

The description of the authors' techniques for the examination of twin placentae is excellent, and the photographs are lucid. Unfortunately, the book appears before the publication of the Birmingham Twin Survey, which is referred to as 'unpublished data'. The authors carried out a twin survey at Oxford which they draw upon. In the section on the determination of zygosity, which is of current interest, they refer only briefly to these surveys. It would have been valuable to have a more detailed analysis of their results and methods of determining zygosity, and the three tables that summarize these aspects of the two surveys are not referred to in the text at all.

Otherwise, the thoroughness of the review is shown by a bibliography of 674 references, which includes work published on the subject from 1900-65. The text is clear, and particularly stimulating is the discussion of further implications and applications of twin studies.

**Club-foot.** By ALFRED T. FRIPP and NORMAN E. SHAW. (Pp. viii + 122; 88 figures. 35s.) Edinburgh: C. and S. Livingstone. 1967.

This book is a thorough review of a controversial subject, in which descriptions of treatment and estimation of results are made difficult by our lack of knowledge of the basic pathology and the inaccuracy of assessment of the severity of the deformity at birth. The senior author was in charge of the club-foot clinic at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital for many years, and the junior author has had wide experience of the condition both in this clinic and at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. In addition Shaw has produced the first critical evaluation of a series of club-foot patients treated by serial plasters, by manipulation and Denis Browne splints, and by serial stretchings and fixation adhesive strapping applied over felt pads. The figures produced by Shaw show a marked advantage for the series treated by stretching and strapping and this is now the method favoured by the authors.

The book contains an extensive review of the literature of the English-speaking world, and many references to articles in other languages; the historical section forms a sound basis for the authors' explanation of the methods of management which they now adopt. The operations advised are detailed with many excellent photographs, x-rays, and line drawings.

The general presentation of the volume maintains the high standards characteristic of the publishers. This book is very reasonably priced and provides a clear

exposition of the present state of knowledge on this subject.

**Scoliosis.** By J. I. P. JAMES with additional chapters by P. A. ZORAB and RUTH WYNNE-DAVIES. (Pp. vii + 248; illustrated + tables. 55s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

This book is based upon the extensive personal experience of Professor James in London and Edinburgh. There are additional chapters on the inheritance of scoliosis, by Miss Wynne-Davies and on the medical aspects of scoliosis by Dr. Zorab.

Scoliosis is a complex problem with many important factors, including aetiology, being ill understood. Professor James' stated aim is to simplify the subject and give the present concept of this disease and of its treatment. This he has done admirably aided by a very high standard of reproduction of radiographs.

Much of the material presented has appeared previously in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* over the past 20 years. Here, with new material, it is laid out clearly so that the routine management advocated by the principal author is easily understood. Being written in a dogmatic style, there are, of course, some statements that might be disputed. By comparison, the chapter on experimental scoliosis and on suggested lines of research for preventing the condition in the future is disappointing. However, this aspect is not the prime purpose for this book which is certain to become the standard work for postgraduate instruction on scoliosis, in Britain, for many years.

**Ophthalmic Eponyms. An Encyclopaedia of Named Signs, Syndromes, and Diseases in Ophthalmology.** By SPENCER P. THORNTON. (Pp. ix + 324.) Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A.: Aesculapius Publishing Company. 1967.

This book is a reference guide to ocular conditions that are referred to by eponyms rather than by descriptive names; it also includes paediatric and neurological diseases with ocular manifestations as well as some named physical signs concerned with the eye.

It lists nearly 600 conditions in the main section and gives a short account of the general and ocular features of each, together with one or two references to the literature on the subject.

There is also an index which lists abnormalities of the eyes and ocular adnexa, and under each heading there is a list of the possible syndromes in which these abnormalities may occur. There is a small section on surgical eponyms which provides a brief account of how to perform certain operative procedures, but it is too limited to be of use and seems out of place in a book of this nature. But on the whole this book should prove very useful for reference purposes both to ophthalmologists and paediatricians.